



Department of Justice

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District of North Dakota

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Minnesota Man Pleads Guilty to
Engaging in Illicit Sexual Conduct with a Minor

FARGO - United States Attorney Timothy Q. Purdon announced that on February 16, 2011, **Darrin Roy Anderson** of Middle River, Minnesota, pleaded guilty before United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson to a charge of travel to engage in illicit sexual conduct.

Anderson, 35, pleaded guilty to traveling from Wallhala, North Dakota, where he was employed at the time, to East Grand Forks, Minnesota, to have sex with a 13-year-old girl in exchange for \$300. Darrin Anderson, using the alias Tyler Anderson, created an online account on the social networking site Facebook. Using the fictitious identity, the defendant contacted the 13-year-old girl in this case. Eventually, the fictitious Tyler Anderson introduced the victim to his cousin, Darrin Anderson, online. In reality, there was no cousin. Tyler Anderson and Darrin Anderson were the same person.

Darrin Anderson, using his real identity, then began texting the victim and offered to pay the victim cash in exchange for sexual favors. Eventually, the defendant traveled

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from Wallhala to East Grand Forks in order to engage in sex with the 13-year-old victim in exchange for \$300.

Shortly thereafter, the incident was reported to the East Grand Forks Police Department. Law enforcement interviewed the 13-year-old victim who told the officers that Tyler Anderson (a/k/a defendant Darrin Anderson) introduced her to Darrin Anderson on Facebook. Law enforcement then obtained a search warrant for Tyler Anderson's Facebook profile and chats. According to information provided by Facebook, Darrin Anderson, using the identity Tyler Anderson, engaged in hundreds of private chats with adolescent girls unknown to him. In one instance, he revealed to a young female that he was not Tyler Anderson, but that in reality he was Darrin Anderson.

The charge of travel to engage in illicit sexual conduct carries a statutory maximum penalty of 30 years in prison.

The case was investigated by the East Grand Forks Police Department and the U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement - Homeland Security Investigations.

Sentencing for **Anderson** has been scheduled for May 2, 2011, in United States District Court in Fargo, North Dakota, at 1:30 p.m.

Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Klemetsrud Puhl is prosecuting the case.

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